

MINUTES

PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK EXAMINING BOARD

JUNE 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Charles Appleby, Sr., Chairperson, on June 8, 2017 at 9:12 a.m. at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT, 06103 in Hearing Room J.

Members Present:

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| Charles Appleby, Sr., Chairperson | Unlimited Contractor |
| Christopher M. Bowman | Unlimited/General Contractor |
| Peter Alfieri | Unlimited Journeyperson |
| Carl W. Schaefer | Public Member |
| Joyce Topshe | Public Member |
| Melissa Sheffy | Public Member |

Members Absent:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| James Piccoli | Unlimited Contractor |
| Frank J. DaCato | Unlimited Journeyperson |
| George C. Sima | Well Drilling Contractor |
| Anthony Calandrino | Unlimited Journeyperson |
| John R. Damico | Unlimited Journeyperson |

Board Vacancies:

One Public Member

DCP Board Staff:

Richard M. Hurlburt, Director
Karen Layman, Secretary

Others Present:

John Neumon, Director, Investigations Division
Julianne Avallone, Director, Legal Division
Paulette Annon, Attorney, Legal Division
Jack Cawley, Cawley Plumbing and Heating/CODE

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information contact Richard M. Hurlburt, Director at (860) 713-6135 or Fax: (860) 706-1202.

Agency Website: www.ct.gov/dcp Division E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the April 13, 2017 Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meeting minutes as written.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

APPEARANCE BY DIRECTOR JOHN NEUMON:

Mr. Neumon was in attendance to follow up on two advertisements placed by home improvement contractors advertising that they do plumbing and electrical work that were brought forth at the April 13, 2017 Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meeting. Mr. Neumon indicated that the advertisements were in violation of applicable laws and that the licensees have been contacted by the Department and provided advisories.

Mr. Neumon referred to the Chapter 393, Section 20-334(a) and (b) as being the section which refers to occupational trade licensing and advertising, and Section 20-341 for related penalties and fines. Director Neumon also provided an overview of CUPTA (Connecticut Unfair Practices Trades Act) advertising regulations and federal laws and regulations that relate to occupational trade licensing and advertising.

Mr. Neumon referred to examples of recent complaints to explain the way in which the Department approaches and analyzes complaints. Mr. Neumon expanded upon outreach underway by the Department to educate consumers and inform licensees of their responsibilities.

APPEARANCE BY DIRECTOR JULIANNE AVALLONE AND ATTORNEY PAULETTE ANNON:

Ms. Avallone introduced Ms. Annon and notified the Board that she is the DCP staff attorney that would be assigned to any plumbing licensing enforcement cases going forward. Ms. Avallone indicated that the Department is working with the Office of the Attorney General to ensure that the Board's assigned Assistant Attorney General will be available to the Board going forward for legal advice. The Department is also working toward organizing training sessions for all occupational trades boards on enforcement hearing procedures.

APPEARANCE BY JACK CAWLEY:

Jack Cawley, of Cawley Plumbing and Heating, and who is affiliated with CODE, attended to convey his concerns regarding the current structure of continuing education classes, specifically, that he feels it is difficult for an instructor to engage the licensees for the required 7-hour course. A discussion took place regarding options to change the CE requirements from 7 hours biennially to 4 hours annually. The Board will revisit this topic and consider different options after the 2018-2019 CE cycle. CODE is CT-PHCC's

state approved continuing education school. This non-profit school holds classes that are open to all licensed plumbers.

APPLICATIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2018-2019 Continuing Education Curriculum Draft Outline

The Continuing Education for Plumbers Subcommittee submitted a draft curriculum outline for the Board's review. The Subcommittee will require more time to make additional changes to this draft. The Board voted unanimously to allow the Subcommittee to further review and edit the draft curriculum presented today and resubmit to the Board when changes are complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Advisory Committee Meeting

Mr. Appleby recently attended a DPH (Department of Public Health) Advisory Committee Meeting, at which representatives from DPH and DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), as well as others, attended.

2. Geothermal regulations

Mr. Appleby reiterated the importance of continuing the drafting of these regulations by the Department of Consumer Protection (formally being drafted by DCP Attorney Jerry Padula).

3. Continuing education audit for J1 and J2 license types

Board Members inquired about a continuing education audit for **all** plumbing license types. Mr. Maloney will be invited to attend the August 10, 2017 meeting to report on the status of audits of all plumbing categories.

4. Department of Labor apprenticeship registration

Several Board Members expressed their concern regarding companies that are hiring employees and not registering them with the Dept. of Labor Apprenticeship Division at the time of hire, as required by law. In addition, there is also a concern that employers that *do* attempt to register apprentices often face difficulty with the application process not being completed in a timely manner. Discussion took place about ways in which this process could be improved, such as adding an online option to register apprentices.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

DCP INVESTIGATION DIVISION COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT

**1. Review of Statutory Report for Occupational and Professional Boards,
Quarter 1, 2017**

Board so noted.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS FROM ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Layman,
Board Secretary

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE:

- August 10, 2017
- October 12, 2017
- December 7, 2017

All meetings will take place at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT at 9:00 a.m.